

OPENING STATEMENT
of
SENATOR TED STEVENS
before the
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE, POST OFFICE, AND
GENERAL SERVICES, SENATE COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Hearing on
Options to implement an interim retirement
program for civil service employees who will be
covered by social security
Wednesday, September 14, 1983
10:30 a.m. -- Room SD-138

Today, we are holding a hearing on a report issued by the General Accounting Office on August 31, 1983, which discusses the effect of requiring new federal employees to be covered by both social security and civil service retirement.

Ever since consideration of the social security bill, I have been warning people that something needed to be done to remedy what could be a very serious recruitment problem for the federal government. Requiring new federal employees to contribute 14% towards civil service retirement/social security will stymie recruitment for many federal agencies.

We are now in the process of working with the Full Committee and the Congressional support agencies in developing a new major retirement system for these new federal employees. However, the work will not be completed until late next year and enactment of final legislation probably will not occur until late 1985. Therefore, a two-year hiatus remains for these new federal employees.

The General Accounting Office has analyzed this problem and recommends that something be done to temporarily remedy it. I compliment the Comptroller General for involving himself personally in this matter. My hope is that we can form a consensus from this hearing to remedy this problem. My desire would be to attach whatever solution we arrive at to the reconciliation bill.